

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 stand in the present application, claims 1, 6, 9-11 and 15-20 having been amended. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 13, but respectfully submit that in view of the above amendments and the following remarks that all of claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action in this case is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noda and has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-20 as being unpatentable over Noda in view of Kuisell. In view of the above-described claim amendments, the Examiner's § 103 rejections of the claims are believed to have been overcome, as will be described in greater detail below.

Applicants' invention is directed to a gas sensor having a gas sensing element fixed at opposite ends of a cylindrical insulator. In particular, the fixing points within the ends of the cylindrical insulator are spaced apart from each other with one end being fixed by a sealing material and the other end being fixed by a cushion filler. Another feature of Applicants' invention is that the sealing material is disposed within the cylindrical insulator for securely fixing the sensor within the element insertion hole. As noted above, the present claims have been amended so as to more clearly recite the above-described features of Applicants' invention. For example, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that the sealing material is provided within the cylindrical insulator at said proximal end of said element insertion hole and that the cushion filter is spaced apart from the sealing material at said distal end of the element insertion hole.

Similar claim amendments have been made to the other independent claims 6, 9, 15 and 18-20.

Since the cited references, taken either singly or in combination, are not believed to teach or suggest the above-described features of Applicants' inventions as now more clearly recited in the present claims, the present claims are believed to patentably define thereover. More particularly, Noda shows its sealing element 32 and cushion element 34 to be disposed adjacent and in contact with each other as clearly shown in Figure 1 of the cited reference. Thus, Noda does not teach or suggest Applicants' invention in which the sealing material and cushion filler are spaced apart from each other.

Kuisell discloses that its sealing material 10 is not disposed within the cylindrical insulator. For example, as shown in Figure 2, glass seal 10 is disposed between insulating bodies 62 and 148 and is further disposed to extend between the insulating bodies and to the exterior of the insulating bodies against upper shield 63. Thus, glass seal 10 is not disposed within the cylindrical insulator as Applicants' claimed sealing material is disposed.

Accordingly, since the cited references do not teach or suggest Applicants' invention as now more clearly recited in the amended claims, all of claims 1-20 are believed to patentably define thereover.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1-20, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other

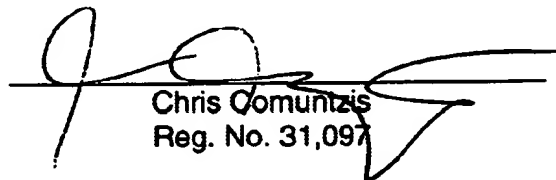
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issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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